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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,045	11/27/2001	Shih-Chan Chen	3313-0421P-SP	7753

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EXAMINER

CHARLES, DEBRA F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/994,045

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Debra F. Charles

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on November 27, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,2 and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aykin (6516301 B1), Natarajan(5315509A), Hsiung et al.(2003/0109951A1) and Shelton (5836989A).

Re claim 1: Aykin disclose a material on hand checking method (Abstract, Fig. 2)

relates to a method that employs to proceed the management and control of material shortage status(col. 2, lines 35-col. 3, line 40, col. 4, line 15-30).

The disclosed method includes at least the following steps:

Receiving at least one build order(Fig. 1, i.e. order received);

Determining if the build order is (effectively determining what type of build order it is col. Col. 3, lines 1-20, col. 7, line 50-col. 8, line 10);

Aykin disclose(s) the claimed invention except decrease the risk of overstocks in inventory through a certain material exploding method, and Exploding the bill of material (BOM) of the build order, Transferring the build order back to a storage media; and and Integrating the bill of material (BOM) to store it back to the storage media. However, in col. 3, lines 25-50, Fig. 3, items 180, 200, Natarajan disclose an exploding billing method where by the costs of the article are exploded into subcomponents and planned. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Natarajan based on the teachings of Aykin. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a exploding method to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Aykin and Natarajan disclose(s) the claimed invention except of trial-run prototypes/modules. However, in thereof, Shelton disclose(s) trial run. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Aykin and Natarajan based on the teachings of Shelton. The motivation to

combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a trial run strategy to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Aykin, Natarajan and Shelton disclose(s) the claimed invention except an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) server, and The disclosed method is through of an enterprise end on the inventory management system in the manufacturing industry. However, in para. 0294, Hsiung et al. Disclose ERP and Baan in particular which handles materials management in an ERP manufacturing environment, especially in the auto industry. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Aykin, Natarajan and Shelton based on the teachings of Hsiung et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a ERP strategy to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Re claim 2: Aykin disclose the build order includes at least the information : the facility and required quantity(Abstract, col. 3, lines 1-30).

Re claim 4: Aykin disclose(s) the claimed invention except the certain method of exploding the bill of material (BOM) comprises the following steps,

Exploding all bills of material (BOM) of the trial-run prototype/module;

Combining modules at the first level of bill of material (BOM);

Exploding the first level of bill of material (BOM);

Exploding the second level of bill of material (BOM); and

Repeatedly exploding each level of bill of material (BOM) to the last level of bill of material (BOM). However, in col. 3, lines 25-50, Fig. 3, items 180, 200, Natarajan disclose an exploding billing method where by the costs of the article are exploded into subcomponents and planned. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Natarajan based on the teachings of Aykin. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a exploding method to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Claims 5 and 6: Aykin disclose the bill of material (BOM) is a product tree of an enterprise, and wherein the bill of material (BOM) comprises at least one common material and at least one specific material (Abstract, col. 2, lines 35-col. 3, line 40).

Re claim 7: Aykin disclose(s) the claimed invention except pre-set column through the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) server. However, in para. 0294, Hsiung et al. Disclose ERP and Baan in particular which handles materials management in an ERP manufacturing environment, especially in the auto industry. ERPs are known to have databases and indexed columns that are pre-established via the index definition assigned to it in the database. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Aykin based on the teachings of Hsiung et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a ERP strategy to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Re claim 8: Aykin disclose the specific material relates to a particular component or part needed for respective, the kind of components and parts among which do not overlap in common(Abstract, col. 2, lines 35-col. 3, line 40).

Re claim 9: Aykin disclose(s) the claimed invention except the step that the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) server. However, in para. 0294, Hsiung et al. Disclose ERP and Baan in particular which handles materials management in an ERP manufacturing environment, especially in the auto industry. ERPs are known to have databases and indexed columns that are pre-established via the index definition assigned to it in the database. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Aykin based on the teachings of Hsiung et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a ERP strategy to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Aykin and Hsiung et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except explodes the bill of material (BOM) of the build order is to add parent modules of the

build order up together, and calculate required materials of respective sub-modules, then to total them up. However, in col. 3, lines 25-50, Fig. 3, items 180, 200, Natarajan disclose an exploding billing method where by the costs of the article are exploded into subcomponents and planned. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Natarajan based on the teachings of Aykin. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a exploding method to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Re claim 10: Aykin disclose utilizing inventory quantity deducts reserved stock to generate an available quantity(Abstract, col. 2, line 35-col. 3, line 40).

Re claim 11: Aykin disclose(s) the claimed invention except to store part numbers and quantities of stock-outs for the trial-run prototype/module into columns provided by the storage media. However, in Fig. 2, col. 3, line 25-col. 4, line 50, Natarajan discloses inventory database that stores part numbers and databases do have columns. This is old and well-known in

database art. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Natarajan based on the teachings of Aykin. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a exploding method to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aykin, Natarajan, Hsiung et al. and Shelton as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nakano et al. (6505199A).

Re claim 3: Aykin, Natarajan, Hsiung et al. and Shelton disclose(s) the claimed invention except the storage media provides a plurality of columns to allow various contents in storage. However, in the Abstract and claim 12, thereof Nakano et al. disclose a database with specific columns to hold various contents in storage. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Aykin, Natarajan, Hsiung et al. and Shelton based on the teachings of Nakano et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively and efficiently illustrate the use of a exploding

method to develop a better long-term strategy without using up valuable stock resources.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (703) 305-4718. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent A. Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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